

Wa:k Newsletter



VOLUME 36 ISSUE 07

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

July 2026

Jukiabig Masad/Big Rains Month

WA:K ART TREASURES

A Heartfelt Farewell to Wa:k Art Treasures

FINAL DAY OPEN UNTIL JULY 9, 2026

After serving our community, supporting local artists, and showcasing the creativity and culture of our people, Wa:k Art Treasures will permanently close its doors on July 9, 2026.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every artist, consignor, customer, visitor, and community member who supported the shop throughout its journey. Your contributions helped make Wa:k Art Treasures a place where culture, art, and community came together.

Thank You to Our Dedicated Staff

We would like to recognize the outstanding employees who served Wa:k Art Treasures with professionalism, integrity, and dedication. Their commitment to our artists, customers, and community helped make the shop a welcoming and successful place for all.

The personnel of Wa:k Art Treasures have served honorably and with pride. Their hard work, kindness, and devotion to preserving and promoting Native artistry will not be forgotten. They will be greatly missed, and we thank them for their service to the San Xavier District and the Wa:k Community.

Consignors

Please pick up any remaining consigned items no later than July 9, 2026. Contact the shop as soon as possible to make arrangements if needed.

With Gratitude

Although this chapter is coming to an end, the artists, traditions, and community spirit that Wa:k Art Treasures celebrated will continue to live on.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey.

"Celebrating Our Artists, Preserving Our Culture, Building Community."

Wa:k Art Treasures

San Xavier District Plaza

Final Day of Operation: July 9, 2026

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Report & Highlights

6/1/26 – Chairman chaired the Special/Closed SXD Council virtual session this evening. 6/2/26 – Chairman chaired this evening's SXD Council meeting.	6/3/26 – Executive Team met to review Administration Dept's FY27 proposed budget. Chairman attended this evening's Young Men's Gathering (YMG) Planning Committee meeting.
6/4/26 – Executive Team, HR, Economic Development and Finance Department Directors met regarding the Wak Arts Treasurer consignment store operations; due to low profits the group agreed to close the store. -Chairman met with Faith Soto, Freeport MacMoRan, and Sammy Lopez, to plan for the upcoming O'odham Cultural Workshop for Freeport employees scheduled for 6/17/26.	6/5/26 – Chairman chaired this evening's special, closed virtual SXD Council meeting on community concerns. 6/6/26 – Chairman assisted with clean-up of the Scug Duag ceremonial grounds in preparation for the YMG event scheduled for June 8 – 13, 2026
6/8/26 – We attended the TON Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee meeting regarding Phillips 66/Kinder Morgan's Western Gateway Pipeline proposal for a new pipeline to run on the west side of the District; a presentation by the Company was set for 6/15.	6/9/26 – YMG registration began; Chairman and Vice Chair provided a welcome to the YMG participants during their opening ceremony at the ceremonial grounds. 6/10/26 – 6/12/26 Chairman assisted at YMG in the afternoons.
6/13/26 – Vice Chair assisted with breakfast and food prep at 5am for the YMG Closing Ceremony. -Chairman recognized all the YMG Planning Committee and Vice Chair assisted with presentation of gifts to each of them for all their hard work.	6/15/26 – We welcomed all the Summer Youth Employment participants during their orientation. -Vice Chair attended YWG debriefing meeting. -Chairman attended the TON Ag and Natural Resources Committee meeting; Phillips 66 announced that the proposed pipeline route has changed and will not affect the District.
6/16/26 – We attended the Quarterly All-Staff meeting. -We attended the monthly Cemetery Wash Project coordination update meeting. -Chairman chaired the SXD Council meeting.	6/17/26 – Chairman provided the Opening Blessing for the Freeport McMoRan Cultural Awareness & Himdag Exchange Workshop. -Vice Chair attended the monthly District Leadership Meeting hosted by the Baboquivari District at the TON Cultural Museum.
6/18/26 – Executive Team met to review the final draft of all department's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget packet. -Chairman chaired the Community Meeting.	6/19/26 - Holiday – Juneteenth. - Vice Chair attended a leadership meeting with Chairman Jose/Vice Chairwoman Johnson re the TON lawsuit against Dept. of Homeland Security.
6/22/26 – Vice Chair attended a meeting called for by Senior Services clients regarding their concerns along with council members.	6/24/26 – Chairman provided a Blessing at Mission Gardens and a second one at the Santa Cruz River next to Mission Gardens.
6/25/26 – Chairman chaired the Special Closed SXD Council in-person meeting. <i>Blessings and Congratulations to all Graduates and students who promoted to their next grade from this past school year!!</i>	6/30/26 – Vice Chair attended the Office of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Planning Team's first meeting to discuss 1) Monsoon Preparedness and 2) Mitigation Project listing update.

July District Events

FRI
3
SXD Closed in Observance
of 4th of July

SAT
11
Back to School Rally
Community Building

MON-FRI
13-17
STEM Camp
Education Center

SAT
18
Community Swap Meet
5PM-10PM

WED
29
SUSD 's First Day of
School



SXD Council & Committee Meetings Jukiabig Masad

Elections

- July 1
- July 15

Health & Education

- July 14
- July 28

Cultural & Natural Resources

- July 6
- July 20

Planning & Housing

- July 8
- July 22

Finance

- July 9
- July 23

Council

- July 7th, 6 pm
- July 21st, 6 pm

Community

- July 16th, 6 pm

SXDC/TOLC Vacancies:

- TOLC Alternate (1)
- SXD Council Alternate (1)

SXDC Committee Vacancies:

- Culture & Natural Resources (1)
- Finance (1)

Department UPDATE

The SxD Covid Office is entering the final quarter of operations, on September 30, 2026, this department will cease operations, including all associated programs. This month be on the look out for updates regarding the Covid Department on the SxD Facebook page.

Covid Office Provides...

- Covid Tests
- Covid Box (if you test positive) *includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for your household.*
- PPE for community events, funerals, and anniversaries, *when requested.*

Water Filters & Replacements

Pur Plus Filter systems are available; it screws right onto the spout!

Small amount of replacement filters for the iSpring Countertop System and the Zero Water Pitcher. Please call

News

CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, these reduce risk and serious complications. The 2025-2026 Covid Vaccine is available, ask your primary care doctor for any further information.

DIAPER & MENSTRUAL PRODUCT MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

Items Available:

- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Adult Incontinence Products (Diapers)
- Menstrual Products

PROGRAM UPDATE

June 2026 marked the end of our partnership with the Arizona Diaper Bank, we thank them for their partnership for 3+ years. The diaper program will continue with available stock. Unfortunately when a size is out of stock, it will not be restocked. Please call for available sizes.

Open Monday–Thursday, Closed Fridays

**For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office:
520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org**



Housing DEPARTMENT Jukiabig Masad

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR SUMMER, PRIORITIZE MAINTAINING YOUR COOLING SYSTEM, INSPECTING, ENSURING SAFETY, AND KEEPING OUTDOOR AREAS CLEAN. THESE ACTIONS WILL HELP YOU STAY COMFORTABLE, PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM DAMAGE, AND HAVE AN ENJOYABLE SUMMER.

COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE— REMEMBER TO CHANGE FILTERS REGULARLY, CLEAR THE AREA AROUND THE OUTDOOR UNIT, AND SCHEDULE PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE.

DECLUTTER YOUR YARD TO DETER SNAKES AND RODENTS THIS SUMMER, FOCUS ON ELIMINATING ELEMENTS THAT ATTRACT THEM: **FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER**— DON'T LEAVE FOOD OUTSIDE IT CAN ATTRACT RODENTS AND OTHER CRITTERS, ELIMINATING STANDING WATER, REMOVE SHELTER AREAS, STORE PILES OF WOOD AND OTHER DEBRIS AWAY FROM YOUR HOME, CHECK OUTDOOR FURNITURE SNAKES CAN HIDE UNDER FURNITURE, BE VIGILANT WHEN CHECKING AREAS AROUND YOUR HOME.

WATER USAGE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS: RESIDENTIAL WATER CONSUMPTION IN ARIZONA CAN BE UP TO 70% HIGHER IN THE SUMMER THAN OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR, MAINLY DUE TO OUTDOOR IRRIGATION.

INTRODUCING HOUSING DEPARTMENT SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYEES: ARMANDO MESA & SANTIAGO TORO



DRINK PLENTY OF WATER THROUGHOUT THE DAY & CONTINUE TO CHECK ON PEOPLE, PETS, AND PLANTS.



QUALIFICATION FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FORM
HOUSING DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFO: 520.573.4043

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Greetings from the IT Department.

The IT Department has been staying busy in the first half of the year. Along with our day-to-day support and regular duties, we have been working on wi-fi upgrades at the Education building, helping resolve equipment issues, and making improvements to keep things running smoothly. We are also working with vendors on a few upcoming upgrades and purchases to better support staff.

We would like to share an article with you about phone security. Since most of us use our phones every day, we feel it's important you know a bit about how to secure your phone and your important accounts.

Phone Security: What Everyone Should Know

Phones are an essential tool for our daily lives and today we can hardly function without them. We use them as our main form of communication such as calls, texting, photos, banking, news, work, and staying connected with family. Because of that, our phones hold a lot of personal and sensitive information.

That also makes them a big target for scams and security issues.

Mobile threats have been growing over the years. Over 60 percent of digital fraud now involves mobile devices, and scam text messages have increased a lot in recent years. This is not just a tech issue anymore. It affects everyday users.

You do not need to be an expert to protect yourself. A few simple tips and changes in habits can go a long way.

How do phones get hacked or cloned?

Most phone issues do not come from someone physically hacking your device like in the movies. It is usually much simpler.

The most common ways include:

Scam links and phishing

This is the biggest one. A text or an email tricks you into clicking a link or entering your information. Once you do, attackers can capture passwords or install harmful software.

Malicious apps

Some apps are designed to look normal but collect your data in the background. Others may request access to things they do not need, like contacts or messages.

Public Wi Fi

On unsecured networks, attackers can sometimes intercept data if proper protections are not in place. This is why it is best to avoid logging in to sensitive accounts on public Wi-Fi.

Account takeovers

If someone gains access to your email, they can reset passwords for other accounts linked to your phone. This is how many people lose access to multiple services at once.

SIM swapping

This is a more advanced scam where someone convinces a phone carrier to move your phone number to a new SIM card. Once they have your number, they can receive your text messages and verification codes.

Lock your phone

Always use a passcode, fingerprint, or face unlock. If your phone is lost or stolen, this is your first line of defense.

Avoid simple passcodes like 1234 or your birthday. A longer passcode is always better.

Scam texts and calls

Scam messages are one of the biggest issues right now. You might see texts about missed deliveries, locked accounts, or urgent payments. If you are not expecting a text message from a company or bank, do not respond to the message or click on any links.

Billions of scam texts are sent every month in the United States, and many people receive suspicious messages regularly. If something feels off, it probably is. Do not click unknown links and do not call numbers from suspicious messages. If you are unsure, go directly to the official website or contact the company using a number you know is real.

Keep your phone updated

Updates are not just about new features. They fix security issues. Many cyberattacks take advantage of problems that already have fixes available, but users have not installed them yet. Turning on automatic updates is one of the easiest ways to stay protected.

Be careful what you download

Only download apps from official app stores and take a moment to check reviews before installing. Pay attention to permissions. A simple app should not need access to your contacts, camera, or location.

Passwords

Use strong passwords and turn on multifactor authentication. Taking one step further to protect your accounts or devices goes a long way toward deterring bad actors from gaining access. Also, use strong, unique passwords for important accounts like email and banking.

Be careful on public Wi-Fi.

Public Wi Fi can be convenient, but it is not always secure. Avoid logging in to sensitive accounts, such as banking or email, while on public networks. When possible, use your cellular data instead by turning off the wifi on your phone. If something seems off, watch for signs like slower performance, unknown apps, frequent pop ups, or fast battery drain. If something does not feel right, restart your phone, remove suspicious apps, update your device, and change important passwords.

NATURAL *Resources*

Greetings Wa:k Community!

We hope all of you are doing well & keeping cool and hydrated this summer. We are pleased to have had both the Young Women's & Men's Gathering events at the Wa:k Hikdan these past few months. Thank you to both planning committees for organizing these events for the young people, and we also appreciate the Natural Resources (NR) staff, Groundskeepers, Rangers, & Laborers that assisted & provided their time as well. We were fortunate this summer to have a presentation provided by the Tohono O'odham Fire Department (TOFD) on "Heat Awareness and Heat Related Illnesses" at our All-Staff Meeting (6/16) arranged by Ulrick Francisco, NR Specialist. It was a very good reminder, especially for the staff working outdoors.

Staff office updates: The NR staff continued to meet with Asarco regarding livestock concerns. We also met with TOFD to discuss the 2026 Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and requested that a presentation be provided to the District Council regarding this proposed plan. Both of our NR Specialists attended a meeting with the National Weather Service related to the upcoming monsoon season. Staff began working on their 3rd Quarter Reports for the upcoming budget meeting presentation.

SYEP: Our department requested 3 youth workers to assist our department this summer. In next month's edition, we will share with you the participants who helped us out and the areas they were assigned to.

Community Presentation: We will present our FY 2027 Budget on August 22nd at the SXD Council Chambers at 9am.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of our projects, please feel free to contact us: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057, Ulrick Francisco (520) 573-4054, or Miranda Flores (520) 573-4053.

We hope you have a safe and relaxing 4th of July Holiday!

NRD Director

HIMDAG EVENTS COORDINATOR

JUKIABIG MAŞAD MONTH OF THE BIG RAINS

A:ñi 'añ hab ce:gig Michael David Anthony Enis. Ñ amjed i:ya Wa:k tab, Ð o añ Wa:k Himdag Events Coordinator. Here is some information to share. There are many ways O'odham Himdag is shared and understood. Let this be one source for you as you read and listen.

During this month the O'odham continue to gather to celebrate the O'odham New Year. There is no date, but the O'odham New Year is a season that begins with the harvesting of the Bahidaj. After the harvest, the O'odham celebrate the **Ju:ki** (rain) and **Hewel** (wind), during the **Jujkida** (rain ceremony).

Our community, **Jujkida** is the last Friday of July. This year it will be on **Friday, July 31, 2026**. Be mindful of the Cultural Restrictions and Guidelines. For more information, feel free to contact us at (520) 573-4005.

We will have Gohmel practice on Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Both beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Building.

Information will be shared about the Jujkida Ceremony.

Please open the link for more information



Ha:şañ song



Beginning Gohmel Song



Beginning Gohmel
Song Story

I look forward to creating and collaborating with you all in the near future on cultural and community events and potential ideas. If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach out and send me an email to menis@waknet.org or phone call at (520) 573-4005. Pegi 'Oig.

A WORD FROM SOME

Summer Youth EMPLOYMENT WORKERS



A:ñi añ ab ce:gig Cole Garcia! Ñ -og ab ce:gig Owen Garcia, Ñ -je'e ab ce:gig Stacy Hernandez. Ñ -wosk ab ce:gig Larry Garcia, Ñ -ka:k ab ce:gig Letitia Garcia. Ñ -bab ab ce:gig Chester Hernandez, Ñ -hu'ul ab ce:gig Florence Hernandez. A:ñi añ amjed Wa:k Ceksan!

Today, I'm here to tell you about a way to get your teenagers involved. My main solution for this is to get your students to join VOY. It stands for "Voices of Our Youth," and it is a program run by the ladies at the education center. They hold fundraisers, take the kids on field trips, and teach them about their culture. This past year with VOY, I've had the opportunity to travel to other villages/districts to perform traditional dances. I have also had the opportunity to travel to Phoenix and Flagstaff to tour ASU and NAU. We even got to scare people when the education had their haunted house fundraiser in October!

Overall, it is a pretty nice experience. You make new friends, go on field trips, learn about O'odham culture, and have a lot of fun! Students can be anywhere from a 7th grader to a Senior in High School! I highly encourage you to let your students give it a try; I promise they won't be disappointed. The program itself starts around the time school starts, (Sometime from August to September) and it usually lasts the school year. Meetings usually occur every other Thursday from 5 PM to 7:30 PM. Make sure to get your students signed up when the time comes!



Hello, my name is Brooke Francisco. I go to Pima Rose Academy. My parents are Denise Begay and Edmund Francisco. On my mom's side are the late Ella Begay and Thomas Begay, and on my dad's side are Denise Puella and the late Ernest Francisco.

My message to the community is to get more people to join Wa:k Youth Council. We help people when they need us to be involved and plan events. We mainly advise our younger generation, aged 13 to 20, to join. Anyone is welcome. This would help our younger generation to stay out of trouble and get involved in the community, so people would know who you are as a person, and it would also be good to meet and socialize with new people. This is a good experience so that, in the future, when you are looking for a job, you can say you have some work experience and are involved in the community.

Planning Department

San Xavier District Toka 8 Housing Development Update:

The Planning Department would like to provide an update regarding the Toka 8 Housing Development on Herman's Road. Community members passing through this area will notice that multiple home foundations have been established in concrete and that structural framing has been erected on two of the home sites. The chlorination process has begun to establish underground plumbing, and electricity will be connected at two homesites within the next 1-2 weeks. Once electricity is connected, other utilities are expected to follow soon after. This phase of the project covers approximately 20 acres of land adjacent to Black Mountain and will include 12 new single-family homes for our community members. We are excited to see the vision of new housing opportunities for this community become a reality.



As a reminder, the infrastructure provided by this project will allow all community members (even those who would like to self-build) to obtain a land assignment in this area. The Planning Department is committed to expanding housing opportunities within the San Xavier District. We will continue to monitor this project closely to ensure its proper execution.

S.A.W.R.S.A

SOUTHERN ARIZONA WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT

Recharge Feasibility Investigation Pilot Project

The Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act (SAWRSA) authorized the Water Management Plan (WMP) for the San Xavier District (District). The San Xavier Cooperative Farm uses Central Arizona Project (CAP) water for their crops; however, the CAP system has planned maintenance outages lasting 6-8 weeks every fall. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is committed to providing reasonable reliable supply of water through aquifer recharge and recovery to provide a portion of the reliable water source.

Reclamation consulted with the District to discharge CAP water directly into arroyo (washes) channels in 1997. The Arroyo (wash) recharge allows CAP water to seep into the underground water table. The former District's Hydrologist, Scott Rogers, and Reclamation identified six (6) possible arroyos recharge areas and additional investigations were completed to determine which location was feasible to allow the infiltration of CAP water. In order to gather preliminary data, the following was installed: monitoring wells, piezometers for groundwater level and quality monitoring, and short-term infiltration testing.

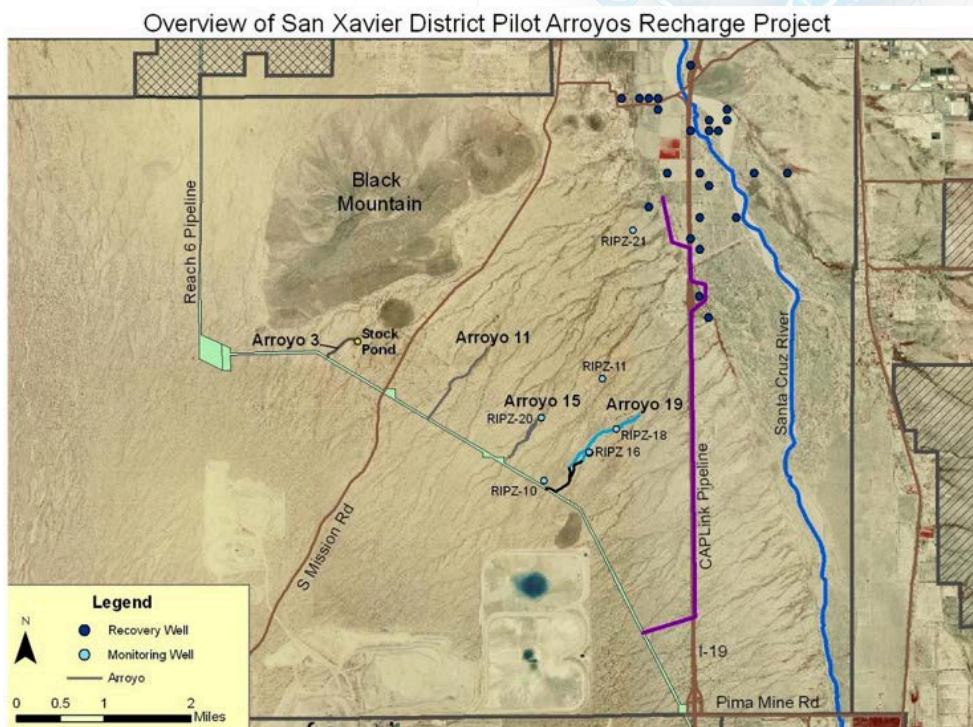


FIGURE 1

Figure 1 outlines several of the potential recharge sites, however Arroyo 19 and a tributary to Arroyo 19 were selected because of favorable characteristics: depth to groundwater, geological conditions, and long-term storage and recovery potential (Rogers, 2006). This site also enhanced infiltration based on the physical characteristics of the channel, i.e. bank height, percentage of silt and clay in the vadose zone, depth to water, etc.

After twelve (12) years, approximately 15,000 acre feet (AF) of CAP water was recharged at Arroyo 19. FIGURE 2 shows the amount of CAP delivered and the amount of water recharged to the groundwater aquifer.

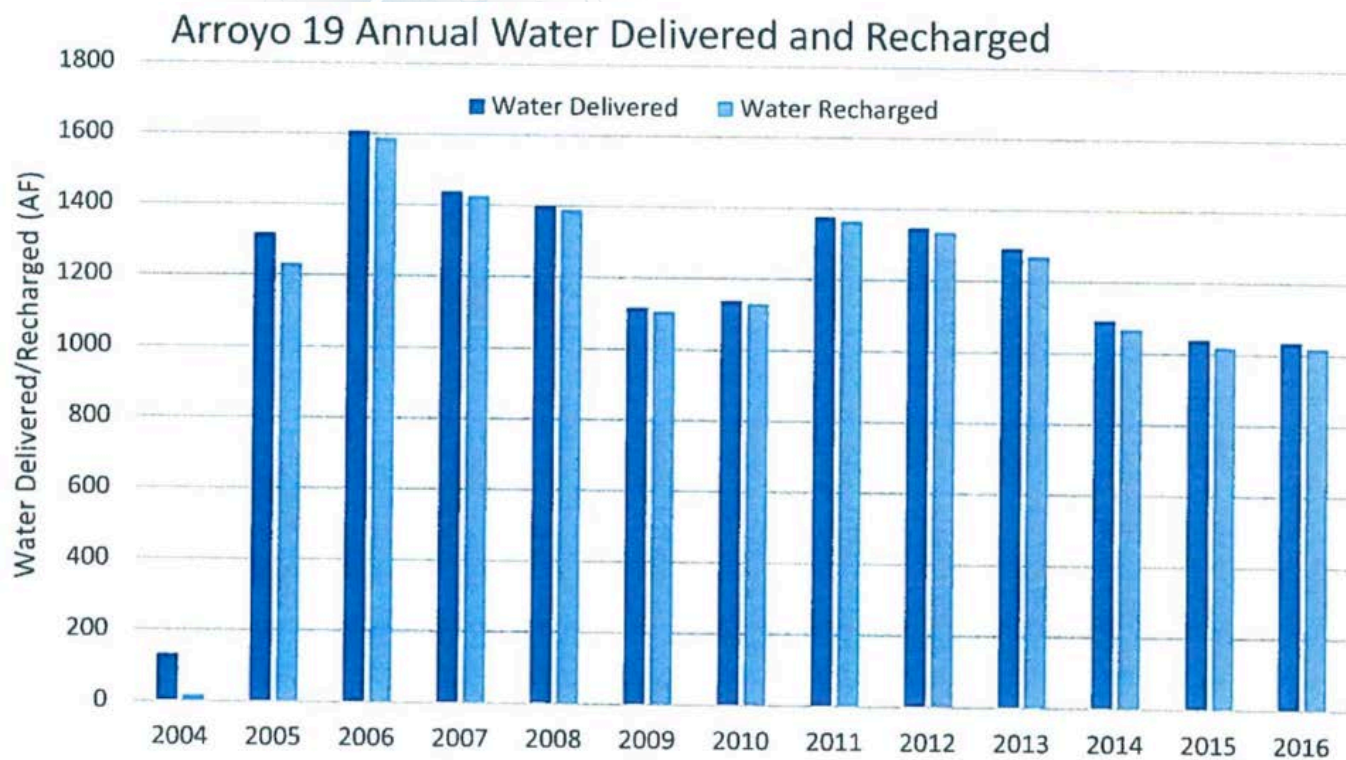


FIGURE 2

We would like to acknowledge the former District's Hydrologist, Scott Rogers, and the Reclamation staff for assisting, designing, and monitoring the project. Mr. Scott Rogers monitored the project daily to ensure infiltration rates were successful. He collected data, monitored CAP and ground water quality, monitored flow and channel conditions, soil changes, soil electrical conductivity, evapotranspiration losses, precipitation from annual rainfalls, infiltration rates, aquifer transmissivity, plus more. The project benefited from environmental impacts as well, i.e., vegetation, wildlife, and livestock.

As a disclaimer, SAWRSA staff are not hydrologists, and we did our best to explain the project based on Mr. Rogers' November 2017 report: SAN XAVIER DISTRICT AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION – RECHARGE FEASIBILITY INVESTIGATION, REPORT ON SAN XAVIER ARROYO 19 IN-CHANNEL RECHARGE TESTING, NOVEMBER 2004-2016.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the aquifer recharge, please reach out to the SAWRSA Office at (520) 573-4000. Velma Begay and Maggie Alvarez will do our best to assist you.

Under the Stars

Drug and Alcohol free event

FREE ADMISSION

Swap Meet

Saturday

July 18, 2026

4:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Live Waila Music

San Xavier Mission

1950 W. SAN XAVIER ROAD

VENDOR FEES:

COMMUNITY - \$15

NON-COMMUNITY - \$30

Register Today

**LIMITED
SPACE**



[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/6GQX1XU50Z](https://forms.office.com/R/6GQX1XU50Z)



Find Unique Treasures:

HOME GOODS/DECOR
ARTISAN/HANDMADE PRODUCTS
JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES
FOOD/CONFECTIONS

16

Organized by: SXD Health and Wellness Committee

Persons attending and participating in the Under the Stars Swap Meet assume all risks, including but not limited to illness, injury, death, or property loss, and agree not to hold the San Xavier District, the San Xavier District Health & Wellness Committee, San Xavier Mission, its agents, event sponsors, and volunteers liable.

Wa:k Ceksan ROYALTY

Leilani Preston

MISS WA:K CEKSAN 25-26

Skeg Tas A:ni 'am ab cegig Leilani Preston, a:ni Miss Wa"K Ceksan 2025-2026. So far, my reign has been full of surprises. I've gotten to know my sash sisters very well. I've traveled to many places, some I've been to and some I haven't. I've met so many new people, like Miss Indian Arizona, Miss Tohono O'odham Nation, and her 2nd Attendant. I've really got to know them, always having conversations when I see them at places we attended. I've learned always to ask people how their day was when they ask me how mine was. One of the places I really enjoyed was Camp Verde. I enjoyed it because I've never been to their pageant, and the girls really seemed to know their culture while performing their talents. All the other places are very similar in many ways. I've gotten to meet so many different people in different places, learning about different cultures as I travel. By holding this title, I became more confident in myself and in talking to many other people. I have much to learn as my reign continues over the next few months.

I want to apologize for not submitting my report quarterly. It has been busy, and I have been trying to get my schooling completed since I graduated from high school. Yay! I have included a few pictures of my sash sisters and other royalty at some of the events we have been attending. Thank you for your continued support of our fundraisers, which allows us to attend the events.



Airra Lucie Lopez

LIL MISS WA:K CEKSAN 25-26

S-ke:g Taş! My name is Airra Luice Lopez. I am 7 years old. I attend Math and Science Success Academy. My mother's name is Misty Saunders, and my father's name is Avery Lopez. My maternal grandparents are Arlene Raymond and Samuel Saunders. My paternal grandparents are Nona Encinas and the late Brian Ortiz. I am your Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan 2025-2026.

The first pageant I attended was the San Carlos Apache Pageant in San Carlos, Arizona. We have also visited Ft McDowell and many places across the nation to represent our community at pageants, farewells, and parades.

At first, I was shy about meeting new royalty, but since then, I have gotten used to it. I love how confident the participants are, and I love watching the girls perform their traditional talents because I get to learn a little about their culture.

I love visiting new places, meeting new people, and especially spending time with my royalty sisters.

I love representing the San Xavier District and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

I also like fundraising and want to thank you for your continued support.

Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan 2025-2026 Airra Lopez



Ava Cecelia Lopez

1ST ATTENDANT

LIL MISS WA:K CEKSAN 25-26

S-ke:g Taş! My name is Ava Cecelia Lopez. I am 9 years old. I attend Math and Science Success Academy. My mother's name is Misty Saunders, and my father's name is Avery Lopez. My maternal grandparents are Arlene Raymond and Samuel Saunders. My paternal grandparents are Nona Encinas and the late Brian Ortiz. I am your first attendant, Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan 2025-2026.

Our first pageant was the San Carlos Apache Tribe's Miss San Carlos Apache Pageant. We have also visited the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for the Orme Dam Victory Days to represent our community in the parade. We have also visited many places throughout our Nation for pageants, parades, and farewell events.

When I first started going to pageants, I was very shy and nervous to meet new people, but my royalty sisters have been there to support me. I love traveling to new places. I like attending pageants because I enjoy watching the girls perform and seeing the smiles on their faces.

I love representing our community. I would like to thank you for your continued support.

-First Attendant Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan 2025-2026 Ava Lopez



Noelle Tenario

2ND ATTENDANT

LIL MISS WA:k CEKSAN 25-26

S-ke:g Tas, my name is Noelle Tenario. I am the second attendant, Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan, 2025-2026.

Since I began my royalty journey, my best memories are learning about my culture, preserving my language, and serving my community. I had the opportunity to travel to many new places all around Arizona and New Mexico. My last trip was to the Last Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in New Mexico. Mexico. I loved seeing the different tribes, hearing their songs, and seeing all of the dancers. The bird dancers were my favorite. I also learned where my last name comes from. It comes from the San Felipe Pueblo. I also got to see different pageants. One was for the Miss. Tohono O'odham Nation. It was fun seeing each contestant's talents.

It has been fun being in the royalty because I have made new friends. I appreciate your support. Until next time. Sapo



**Wa:k Ceksan Royalty
Recruitment Workshop
Friday - July 25, 2026
9am – 1pm**

**San Xavier
Community Bldg**



If you are interested or curious of what it is to be a Royalty. Come & learn about representing your community. The following are some of the topics.

**Participation
Prizes**

1. Public Speaking
2. Meeting people & Gain New Friendships
3. Traveling
4. Learning more about our culture
5. Get ideas for your talent presentations
6. Parent/Guardian Experience through Support

Refreshments

For more information you may email wakroyalty@gmail.com



San Xavier Health Center

520-547-8140

Press 1 for Same Day or 0 for the Operator

IMPORTANT CLINIC INFORMATION

Calls for
Same Day Appointments
start at

7:45 AM



FAQ's

Why does the line go silent after being on hold?

- Often lines are maxed out and holding music is not available. Please stay on the call, you are still in queue with our next available sameday nurse

What option do I push to make an appointment with my Primary Care Doctor?

- Selecting option #3 will send you directly to the Call Center. Here, our staff can look up appointments, schedule appointments, send messages to your doctor and so much more. Use this option for direct care questions/needs

What do I need to register for services?

- To register for services, you will need to bring a photo I.D., tribal enrollment card or CIB or enrollment certificate, social security card, birth certificate, and insurance card if applicable (only original documents are accepted)

Who do I call for a dental appointment?

- Dental has their own main line, they can be reached at (520)547-8124

Oodham Ap'edag Ki: PEOPLE WELLNESS HOUSE

Greetings Wak Community,

I hope your summer is going well so far. I would like to share a few highlights from the past month.

First, I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as a camp leader this year for the Young Women's gathering. My co-worker, Monica Valenzuela, and I were in charge of the 10-year-old girls. We had 12 girls in our group, and we had so much fun together! Each girl brought her own unique personality and special qualities to the group. It was a great experience getting to know young girls from all over the Nation. I am already looking forward to next year and plan to volunteer again as a group leader.

The People Wellness staff have also been busy with our summer youth program. We have several fun and educational field trips planned for the youth, including visits to the Heard Museum and Mt. Lemmon. We are excited to provide these opportunities for our youth to learn, explore, and enjoy new experiences.

The People Wellness House would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of our collaborators who work alongside us to provide the best possible services to our community members. We extend our sincere gratitude to Eric Mase and Deirdra Edaakie from HOPP for sharing valuable wellness knowledge and providing healthy food demonstrations to our youth program. We also thank the San Xavier Education Department and SUSD staff for their continued collaboration and dedication to ensuring our students receive the best education possible.

Lastly, we would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Mary Bliss for her time and commitment to teaching our youth O'odham Bingo, helping them learn words and animal names in a fun and engaging way.

Thank you all for your continued support of our programs and our community.

We want to acknowledge and congratulate the students who were promoted, and they are: Noah Miles, Cienna Jose, Anaya Jose, Patricia Blackowl, and Jasmine Meadows

Take care and be blessed,
Irma Tucker, Program Administrator

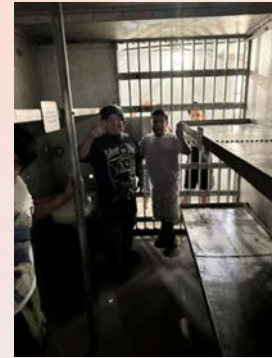
Wa:k Spirit

Jukiabig Masad/Big Rains Month



S-ke:g Tas Wa:k Community,

What a very busy month it was for us at the San Xavier Education Center. We just completed our 1st-6th-grade "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading program. The Summer Reading Program focused on dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology by integrating STEM, cultural & language, and reading activities. The program concluded on June 18, 2026. We took the students on field trips to the AZ Museum of Natural History in Mesa, AZ, Kitt Peak, and lastly, to Funtasticks Cactus Springs waterpark. In addition to our Summer Reading Program, we also had the Early Risers Program for incoming kindergartners. A total of 8 students participated. This program concluded on Thursday, June 18, 2026.





S-ke:g Taş Wesig 'Em Wui,

The Summer Reading Program is happening now. The theme is “Unearth a Story”. The students have been learning the O’odham conversation, 'Añi ap ce: gig, colors, numbers, S-ke:g Taş, Seven Days of the Week, 3D-Pens, and singing in O’odham. Several of the students are speaking and writing in O’odham for the first time. The students help each other with hands-on activities, songs, and the words taught each day.

Attached are photos of the students participating in hands-on activities.

Have a safe month.

Elizabeth Ortega
SX Culture Language Teacher



Greetings from the Library



We are happy to announce that all of our summer programs are underway and all is going well!

Our summer Infant/Toddler (1st session) program was successful for June!

Our second session will start July 6–16, 2026, from 10 am–10:45 am

Reminder: Have your children read at least 20 minutes per day.

If you need books, please call Gertie or Elissa at 520-8621.

Gertrude Lopez—Learning Center Coordinator

Elissa Encinas—Learning Center Aide



Education Outreach Coordinators

Hello Students and Families,

Our Summer has gone by so fast this year, and soon we will be preparing for our students to return to school. I hope everyone, both the parents and students, had a long, fun, and relaxing vacation this summer.

Here is what's been happening over the summer at the Education Center

We started out in June with our “Unearth a Story” Summer Reading Program (1st - 6th graders)!

The students had the opportunity to spend time with us and learn more about STEM in the areas of math, science, reading, and the O’odham language. Our students had a great time learning about various prehistoric creatures, the evolution of dinosaurs, using 3-D pens to make their own dinosaurs, and more. I would like to thank all the families and students who participated in our summer reading program. I hope to see you again next summer in our program.

Next, we had our Recognition Day on June 22. These students were recognized for receiving rewards throughout the school year. We took a day to treat them out to a day of fun by eating pizza and watch a movie at Harkins Theatres.

Here are some upcoming events in July to keep your eyes open for, if you have any questions,

- Middle School Summer Program (Begins June 29 and ends July 13th, 2026)
- Back to school Rally July 11, 2026
- SxD Ed. Center & AZ Science Center STEM Camp (July 13–17, 2026)
-

I hope you all continue to enjoy your summer with your students, have fun, and be safe. Make sure you all stay hydrated during this hottest month.

Anna Butler & Delissa Ramon

Education Outreach Coordinators






ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER'S
CAMP INNOVATION

CALLING ALL CAMPERS!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP INNOVATION SUMMER BREAK 2026

July 13-17 | Grades 1-6
WHAT: CAMP INNOVATION Offered Monday-Friday
COST: FREE
TIMES: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: San Xavier Education Center, 1960 Wack Ln, Tucson, AZ 85746

Join us for CAMP INNOVATION's Summer Break camp at San Xavier Education Center! Let your imagination run wild in our week-long, two theme camp session that sparks curiosity in science through a hands-on interactive program that incorporates learning through high-energy challenges, building and design.



To learn more and register, scan the QR code!



All San Xavier District

2026

BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY



Saturday, July 11, 2026

Community Building

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



For all San Xavier District Members (students) who will be attending grades Kindergarten—12th!

- School Supplies
- Informational Booths
- Activities
- Backpacks
- Food Vendors
- Raffles & Music

For more information, contact the SXD Education Department at 520.807.8620.



San Xavier District \$10,000 Scholarship

2 year degree programs

GUIDELINES

- ⇒ Applicant MUST be an enrolled member of the San Xavier District
- ⇒ Applicant MUST be attending a 2 year Community College and be classified as a full time student (12 credit hours)
- ⇒ Scholarship will fund tuition, books, fees, living expenses, transportation and tutoring services.
- ⇒ Two students will be awarded

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
JUNE 8th 2026

APPLICATIONS DUE
July 31st 2026

Application CHECKLIST

Completed Application
Financial Needs Analysis (FNA)
Student Agreement
Tribal Enrollment
Official Transcript
Diploma - Copy of your High School or GED diploma
School Acceptance Letter
Class Schedule
Student Aid Report (SAR): Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Proof of Dependents (If Applicable)
Program of Study A program with the required classes you need to complete your program/degree.
1,000 word essay - Educational Goals

For more information please call the San Xavier Education Center 520.807.8620

San Xavier District \$25,000 Scholarship

University Degree programs

GUIDELINES

- ⇒ Applicant MUST be an enrolled member of the San Xavier District
- ⇒ Applicant MUST be attending a 4 year University and be classified as a full time student (12 credit hours)
- ⇒ Scholarship will fund tuition, books, fees, living expenses, transportation and tutoring services.
- ⇒ TWO STUDENTS WILL BE AWARDED

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
JUNE 8th 2026

APPLICATIONS DUE
July 31st 2026

Application CHECKLIST

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For more information please call the San Xavier Education Center 520.807.8620



San Xavier District of the
Tohono O'odham Nation
2018 W. San Xavier Road
Tucson, Arizona 85746
Phone: (520) 573-4000
Fax: (520) 573-4089



San Xavier

MISSION

Happy Summer to all!

Baptisms:

No Baptisms in July. The next openings are for October.

Religious Education program:

Registrations in August: St. Kateri Room - Monday-Thursday 9-4. Fridays 9-12.

Classes begin after Labor Day

The office closed in July

Sisters Rosalyn and Carla will be on break in Wisconsin.

They will be praying for everyone during their retreat.

They will return at the end of July.